

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Hannon on June 20, 2008.

In the brief description of Figure 12 on page 14 of the specification, the phrase "Figs 12(A) and 12(B)" in the amendment received on March 5, 2008 was changed to --Figs. 12(A), 12(B) and 12(C)-- since the drawings depict a figure 12(A), 12(B) and 12(C).

On line 14 of claim 1, the following phrase was inserted after the phrase "blood cell fraction container": --before and after blood has been separated into the blood cell fraction and the plasma fraction--.

On line 13 of claim 6, the following phrase was inserted after the phrase "blood cell fraction container": --before and after blood has been separated into a blood cell fraction and a plasma fraction--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Application serial no. 10/528,570 is being allowed in view of the translation of the foreign priority document received on March 5, 2008, and since none of the prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests a blood analysis device comprising a U-shaped flow channel having an upstream portion elongated along a centrifugal force pressurizing direction and a downstream portion elongated in a direction

opposite to the centrifugal force pressurizing direction, and a plasma separating means in the form of a blood cell fraction container positioned in the lowermost portion of the U-shaped flow channel midway between the upstream portion and the downstream portion, wherein the upstream portion and the downstream portion of the flow channel are in contact with the blood cell fraction container in the lowermost portion of the U-shaped channel, and are constituted to communicate with each other in an upper space of the blood cell fraction container before and after blood has been separated into a blood cell fraction and a plasma fraction by centrifuging the device. The device allows the plasma fraction to continuously exist in both of the upstream and downstream portions of the flow channel without being divided by the blood cell fraction after centrifugation, as opposed to the prior art device where communication between the upstream and downstream portions of a flow channel is cut off after a blood sample is centrifuged in the device as a result of the blood cell fraction plugging up the flow channel between the upstream and downstream portions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 1797

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maureen M. Wallenhorst whose telephone number is 571-272-1266. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden, can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Maureen M. Wallenhorst
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1797

mmw

June 20, 2008

/Maureen M. Wallenhorst/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797